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## **Republicans join together to fight for Michigan jobs**

**Lansing** – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) today announced an unprecedented proposal to provide much-needed job opportunities for Michigan residents.

Sen. Cameron Brown (R-Fawn River Township) said the proposal would help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small-business investment for more job opportunities and provide incentives to expand the state's slow-moving economy by getting Michigan residents back to work.

“Job growth and retention is on the top of everyone's list and this legislative package is a good first step,” Brown said. “We need to provide leadership. I look forward to helping advance this legislation on behalf of the residents of the 16th district and the entire state of Michigan.”

The 16th Senate District includes the counties of Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee and St. Joseph.

The plan would:

- Create Tool & Die Recovery Zones to provide tax relief similar to Renaissance Zones.
- Provide tax incentives for small start-up businesses by exempting them from most taxes for the first two years of operation then phasing in tax liabilities for the following four years.
- Reauthorize, strengthen and provide more accountability for the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, which expires on Dec. 31. MEGA is the state's main tax-incentive granting authority used to spur economic development.

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- Create a venture capital investment incentive by offering income and Single Business Tax breaks to those who might lose money investing in Michigan start-up businesses.
- Establish a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to clean up abandoned brownfield sites. This program would transfer the remaining CMI funding into a grant and loan program.
- Improve Michigan's infrastructure by expediting the 2002 voter approved Sewer Bond Initiative to allow communities to start construction projects sooner.
- Call on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to provide a small-business "czar" and a manufacturing "czar" with the experience and vision to focus on small-business start-ups as well as retaining and creating manufacturing jobs.
- Implement a Forestry Initiative that would adopt forest management changes to protect the environment and create new job opportunities by strengthening Michigan's timber industry.

The Senate has teamed up with the House of Representatives to make this plan a success. This marks the first time both Republican majority caucuses have come together with a common goal.

Legislation inspired by the plan is already scheduled for introduction this week.

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